AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for transferring substances between layers of fluid or gas, said method comprising

i. providing a device comprising

a. at least one convective layer comprising a fluid or gas of interest, wherein said at least one convective layer has a thickness between 1 mm and 5 cm, and

b. at least one receiving layer, comprising fluid or gas to which receiving layer or from which receiving layer the substances are transferred,

ii. passing a fluid or gas through said device, wherein said fluid or gas of interest within said at least one convective layer is running in a direction parallel to said at least one receiving layer, and wherein fluid or gas in said at least one receiving layer is either:

a. stagnant, or

b. running in another direction, and/or running with a different speed, when compared to the fluid or gas in said at least one convective layer,

iii. allowing substances to be transferred to or from said at least one receiving layer without said receiving layer being percolated by said fluid or gas of interest of the convective layer, and

iv. obtaining a fluid or gas of interest in said at least one convective layer from which or to which said substances are transferred.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving layer is positioned below the convective layer.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substances are transferred to the at least one receiving layer due to sedimentation, mixing layer mass flow, and/or diffusion.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the substances are retained within the receiving layer by precipitation, sorption or any other retention mechanism.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the receiving layer further has an affinity for the substances.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, where the filter further comprises a second receiving layer adjacent the convective layer and opposite the first receiving layer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, where at least one receiving layer comprises material selected from the list consisting of sand, gravel, perlite, vermiculite, anthracite, activated carbon, charcoal, limed soil, iron-enriched soil, diatomaceous soil, chitin, chitosan, pozzolan, lime, marble, clay, iron-oxide-coated minerals ~~(e.g. sand)~~, double metal-hydroxides, LECA, rockwool, glasswood, zeolithes, fly ash, soil, humus, bark, lignin, compost, leaves, seaweed, algae, alginate, xanthate, peat moss, bone gelatin beads, moss, wool, cotton, other plant fibres, and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the convective layer is empty space.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one convective layer comprises a mass of random filament-type plastic fibers with a density which is sufficient to support the filter unit without significant collapse, but allow water to pass freely therethrough.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the hydraulic conductivity of the convective layer is at least 1.1 times the hydraulic conductivity of the receiving layer in the main flow direction.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid to be filtered comprises waste water, industrial waste water ~~(pharma, oil, chemical, metal, food and feed industry)~~, urban waste water, highway runoff, stormwater.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid to be filtered comprises urban waste water, highway runoff, road runoff and/or stormwater.

13. (Currently Amended) A device for transferring substances between layers of fluid or gas, said device comprises at least one unit of a filter, said unit of a filter comprising

i. at least one convective layer comprising a fluid or gas of interest, wherein said at least one convective layer has a thickness between 1 mm and 5 cm,

ii. at least one receiving layer comprising fluid or gas to which receiving layer or from which receiving layer the substances are transferred,

wherein said fluid or gas of interest within said at least one convective layer is running in a direction parallel to said at least one receiving layer, and wherein fluid or gas in said at least one receiving layers is either:

[[o]] a. stagnant, or

[[o]] b. running in another direction, and/or running with a different speed, when compared to the fluid or gas in the convective layer,

and wherein said substances are transferred to or from said at least one receiving layer without said receiving layers being percolated by said fluid or gas of interest of the convective layer.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 13, further comprising a second receiving layer adjacent the convective layer opposite the at least one receiving layer, being a sandwich filter.

15. (Original) The device according to claim 14, comprising a stack of sandwich filters, the stack comprising at least 2 sandwich filters.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 13, comprising a stack of alternating convective/receiving layers.

17. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein an impermeable layer surrounds the device to seal it from the surroundings on all surfaces except the inlet and outlet.

18. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the receiving layers comprises material selected from the group consisting of sand, gravel, perlite, vermiculite, anthracite, activated carbon, charcoal, soil, limed soil, iron-enriched soil, diatomaceous soil, chitin, chitosan, pozzolan, lime, marble, clay, iron-oxide-coated miners, ~~e.g. sand,~~ double metal-hydroxides, LECA, rockwool, zeolithes, fly ash, ~~soil,~~ bark, lignin, compost, seaweed, algae, alginate, xanthate, peat moss, bone gelatin beads, moss, wool, cotton, other plant fibres, ~~and modification hereof~~ combinations thereof, and modifications thereof.

19. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein the convective layer comprises a mass of random filament-type plastic fibers with a density which is sufficient to support the device without significant collapse, but allow water to pass freely there through.

20. (Original) The device according to claim 19, wherein the convective layer comprises a polyethylene or polyester fibrous mesh.

21. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein the convective layer comprises a mass of open-structured plant fibers with a density which is sufficient to support the device without significant collapse, but allow water to pass freely there through.

22. (Original) The device according to claim 13, further comprising a pump for pumping liquid or gas through the filter unit.

23. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, further comprising a pre-filter adapted to remove particulate material from the liquid or gas prior to passing the liquid or gas into the filter.

24. (Original) Use of the device according to claim 13 for filtering wastewater.

25. (Original) Use of the device according to claim 13 for filter gas (flue gas, waste gas, exhaust gas).